

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 STR-04  
OMB-01 CEA-01 DHA-02 COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-02 AGRE-00  
FEA-01 (ISO) W  
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R 132020Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1608  
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
USUN NEW YORK 411  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTO DOMINGO 5002

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW), NS, US, XL, XM, SHUM, PFOR  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH SURINAM PRIME/  
FOREIGN/FINANCE MINISTER AARON.

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND ZURHELLEN AND  
OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUNG'S PARTY MET WITH PRIME MINISTER  
AARON ON AUGUST 11 AND DISCUSSED A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES  
INCLUDING PANAMA, CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT, SURINAM'S RELATIONS  
WITH THE HEMISPHERE, WORLD BANK AND IMF ASSISTANCE,  
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND SURINAM'S TWO BORDER DISPUTES. A FINAL  
AGREEMENT ON THE DISPUTE WITH FRENCH GUIANA IS BEING  
DRAFTED BY A JOINT COMMISSION. SURINAM SUFFERS FROM A  
SHORTAGE OF LABOR AND BUDGETARY PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON AUGUST 11 AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND ZURHELLEN, DEPUTY  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHELTON ARA/PRC DIRECTOR EINAUDI, NSC  
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS OFFICER HORMATS AND USUN MISOFF MET WITH  
PRIME/FOREIGN/FINANCE MINISTER AARON, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE MFA  
HENAR, CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT PRESS SERVICE HERING AND UN DEPUTY  
PERMREP HALFHUID.

3. PANAMA. FOLLOWING A REPORT OF A RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT ON A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY, AARON EXPRESSED HIS CONGRATULATIONS AND HIS HOPE THAT THE TREATY WILL BE RATIFIED. YOUNG COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT THE BOGOTA FIVE MEETING WOULD ENCOURAGE RATIFICATION AND NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT FOR OUR RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN. THE CANAL QUESTION HAD MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR US TO RELATE TO THE REGION. HE THINKS WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REGION.

4. THE CARIBBEAN. IN DISCUSSING HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE TRIP SO FAR, YOUNG DESCRIBED THE EMERGENCE OF A CONSENSUS ON A CARIBBEAN BASIN POLICY. IN A ONE-TO-ONE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US, MANY SMALL CARIBBEAN NATIONS FEEL THAT THEY DON'T GET AS MUCH AS THEY WOULD LIKE NOW THAT THEIR INTERNAL POLITICS ARE UNDULY INFLUENCED BY US ASSISTANCE. THE ASSISTANCE PACKAGE WHICH THE US, TRINIDAD, VENEZUELA, AND CANADA PUT TOGETHER FOR JAMAICA IS AN INDICATION OF MOVEMENT TOWARD MULTILATERAL COOPERATION FOR THE CARIBBEAN. THE GOCR, WHICH FEELS ITSELF ISOLATED IN CENTRAL AMERICA, IS ONE OF THE MOST ARTICULATE SPOKESMEN FOR CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONCEPT. YOUNG REFERRED IN SOME DETAIL TO ODUBER'S VIEWS ON REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION AND THE ECONOMIC BASIS FOR DEMOCRACY--ALREADY REPORTED FROM SAN JOSE.

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4. NOTING PRESIDENT FERRIER'S AND AARON'S VIEWS ON SURINAM'S ROLE IN A HEMISPHERIC RATHER THAN CARIBBEAN CONTEXT, YOUNG SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE THE ABOVE THOUGHTS WITH THEM FOR CONSIDERATION, BUT NOTED HE WAS NOT ASKING FOR ANY RESPONSE. SURINAM COULD BE ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE CARIBBEAN COALITION, HE NOTED, BECAUSE OF ITS UNIQUE POSITION: IT PROCESSES AS WELL AS MINES BAUXITE, FOUND A HARMONIOUS PATH TO INDEPENDENCE AND HAS A MATURE ATTITUDE TOWARD EUROPE AND THE US, IN CONSEQUENCE, AND NO LEFTIST TENDENCIES.

5. SURINAM'S HEMISPHERIC POLICY. AARON REVIEWED THE GOS'S EFFORTS TO BECOME FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE HEMISPHERE: HE HAS INSTRUCTED THE SURINAMESE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON TO NEGOTIATE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ALL OAS MEMBERS. RELATIONS WITH CUBA ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION AT CUBA'S REQUEST, BUT NO DECISION IS LIKELY BEFORE THE NEXT ELECTIONS. SURINAM ENJOYS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH BRAZIL AND IS WORKING TOWARD A TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH VENEZUELA. SURINAM HAS NO PROBLEMS WITH ANY OF THEIR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FRIENDS, BUT HAS FEW ECONOMIC LINKS WITH LATIN AMERICA. SURINAM SEES

VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL AS IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNERS SINCE SHIPPING EXPENSES RAISE THE COST OF TRADE WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET. AARON NOTED THAT TRADE IS CENTRALIZED IN HOLLAND AND THE US AND THAT THE SURINAM GUILDER IS RELATED TO THE US DOLLAR--A "VERY GOOD CONNECTION." AARON NOTED THAT SURINAM HAS NOT JOINED CARIFTA BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS BUT IS A MEMBER OF THE CARIBBEAN DIVISION OF THE LOME CONVENTION. SURINAM WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN DISCUSSIONS ON THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA).

6. WORLD BANK. NOTING THAT SURINAM WILL BE RECEIVING SUBSTANTIAL DUTCH ASSISTANCE FOR FROM TEN TO FIFTEEN YEARS, AARON SAID, HOWEVER, THE GOS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SEEKING ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE WORLD BANK AND IMF  
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AND ASKED FOR US HELP--BASED ON OUR "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP"--- WHEN SURINAM APPLIES FOR SOME ASSISTANCE.

7. BORDER DISPUTE WITH FRENCH GUIANA. AARON NOTED THAT THE DISPUTE ON SURINAM'S EASTERN BORDER IS ON THE VERGE OF SETTLEMENT. A JOINT FRENCH/SURINAM COMMISSION IS WORKING ON THE FINAL TEXT OF AN AGREEMENT TO DEVELOP THE AREA EAST OF THE MAROWYNE RIVER TOGETHER FOR A PERIOD OF 17-100 YEARS AND A FRENCH ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR SURINAM OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.

8. GUYANA BORDER DISPUTE. THIS IS A MORE DIFFICULT QUESTION, AARON NOTED. SURINAM IS PLANNING A 800-900 MEGAWATT HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY AT THE AVANAVERY FALLS (NORTH OF THE DISPUTED AREA) AND ANOTHER MAJOR IRRIGATION DAM TO DEVELOP THE FERTILE NORTHWESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. AARON EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE EASTERN BORDER SETTLEMENT WILL HELP WITH THE PROBLEM ON THE WESTERN BORDER.

9. HUMAN RIGHTS. AARON EXPRESSED COMPLETE SUPPORT, AS PRESIDENT FERRIER HAD ON THE PREVIOUS DAY, FOR THE PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES.

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10. SURINAM'S PROBLEMS. AARON NOTED THAT A LACK OF LABOR, PARTICULARLY SKILLED TECHNICIANS, IS INHIBITING SURINAM'S DEVELOPMENT. MANY SURINAMESE, FEARING RIOTS, LEFT SURINAM FOR THE NETHERLANDS PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE. A NUMBER OF THEM ARE WAITING FOR URINAM TO DEVELOP BEFORE RETURNING, BUT AARON IS CONCERNED THAT THEY MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED BACK BY THOSE WHO HAVE STUCK IT OUT IN SURINAM. SURINAM ALSO SUFFERS FROM BUDGETARY PRLBLEMS; BECAUSE THE POPULATION IS SMALL, TAX REVENUES ARE LOW. AN ADDITIONAL ASPECT OF THE LABOR PROBLEM IS THE DISTAIT FOR MANUAL LABOR AMONG SURINAMESE--A HOLDOVER OF ATTITUDES DEVELOPED IN THE COLONIAL PERIOD. SURINAMESE WANT WHITE-COLLAR JOBS, AND GOVERNMENT JOBS IN PARTICULAR, EVEN THOUGH PAY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS BETTER. AS QD CONSEQUENCE DBE HAITIANS ARE IMPORTED TO WORK IN THE SUGAR PLANTATIONS AND GUYANESE  
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TO WORK PLAM OIL AND CUT BANANAS. ZURHELLEN NOTED THE PROGRESS SURINAM HAS MADE SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN NATION-BUILDING AND SURINAMIZATION.  
HURWITCH

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** OVIP, SHUM, PFOR, NS, US, XL, XM, (YOUNG, ANDREW), (ARRON, HENCK)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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